From:	Fox & Hounds
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Fox&Hounds discusses and explains the confluence of politics and business in California through our blog, featuring opinion pieces written by leaders from across the state published daily. Read below to see what's new on the site today.

$155 Billion a Year in Higher Taxes and Fees Proposed in First Four Months of Legislative Session
By Robert Gutierrez

In the first four months of the 2017-18 legislative session, California lawmakers introduced $155 billion in higher taxes and fees – a staggering amount that will give pause to every business owner when considering expansion, and cause families to reflect on California's affordability.
This week, the California Tax Foundation released the third edition of Tax Watch: Major Taxes and Fees Introduced in the California Legislature, a report cataloging all legislation introduced since the start of the legislative session in December that proposes a new or increased tax or fee.
The cumulative sum of these proposals is the highest we've ever identified. These proposals seek to increase the price of the most basic necessities – housing, health care, child care, groceries and driving a car. From a business perspective, these bills would make it costlier for start-ups, family businesses, neighborhood restaurants and California's industry icons to keep their doors open.

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The Impact of Minimum Wage Increases
By Joel Fox

The debate over the minimum wage did not end when the state followed the lead of a number of local governments in agreeing to boost the minimum wage to $15 an hour. Now we are watching the impact of the increase. Even before workers achieve the $15, there are signs that the increase in minimum wage is hurting many it was intended to help.
A report in the San Diego Union Tribune reveals an economic study showing an increase of just $1.50 to$11.50 likely cost 4,000 food service jobs.
While it may be early to judge the true impact of the $15 minimum wage boost, anecdotal evidence continues to come in. This on top of reports out of Seattle that the $15 minimum wage mark is sending jobs out of the city and into the suburbs.
Many in the business community warned that raises in the minimum wage could hurt hiring of entry level jobs and put pressure on small business owners to reduce work time or cut jobs all together.

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Nuking San Francisco
By Joe Mathews

It's hard to know how to react to North Korean video showing a nuclear missile attack on downtown San Francisco.
With a look on the housing market benefits?
Finally, middle-class people will be able to afford to the live in the city again.
With techie scorn?

Look at those awful CGI graphics. Can't some Bay Area virtual reality company find a way around sanctions and help the North Koreans create something suitably scary enough for a crackpot dictatorship?
With alternative targeting? Kim Jong Un, if you want to attack the heart of San Francisco arrogance, you gotta aim at Noe Valley instead.

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Crowding Out the Housing Agenda
By Timothy L. Coyle

Housing expert and friend Carol Galante has drunk the Kool-Aid. She's bought into the theory that things other than California's profound undersupply of housing should determine state policy. In this case, of course, it's environmental policy.
Galante is a housing pro. For a long time, she worked under housing guru Donald Terner at the now-famous BRIDGE Housing Development Corporation, the nation's most prolific non-profit developer of affordable housing. After Terner's untimely death in the early 90's, Galante took over BRIDGE and ably ran it for over 15 years. She was later appointed by President Obama to be the nation's chief housing policy-maker and now runs UC Berkeley's new housing think tank.
But, even after acknowledging that California's current housing woes have been "caused in large part by a thriving economy and a multi-decade-long undersupply of housing relative to population and job growth" Galante, along with fellow academicians, said in a newly released study she thinks lawmakers and policy makers need to "assess the environmental and economic impacts of housing production scenarios that could help meet the state's proposed 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target under Senate Bill 32 (Pavley, 2016)." In other words, subordinate housing policy to environmental policy.

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